ing a romantic ſpecies of modeſty, which gratifies the pride and libertiniſm of man.

Women, deluded by theſe ſentiments, ſometimes boaſt of their weakneſs, cunningly obtaining power by playing on the *weakneſs* of men; and they may well glory in their illicit ſway, for, like Turkiſh baſhaws, they have more real power than their maſters: but virtue is ſacrificed to temporary gratifications, and the reſpectability of life to the triumph of an hour.

Women, as well as deſpots, have now, perhaps, more power than they would have if the world, divided and ſubdivided into kingdoms and families, was governed by laws deduced from the exerciſe of reaſon; but in obtaining it, to carry on the compariſon, their character is degraded, and licentiouſneſs ſpread through the whole aggregate of ſociety. The many become pedeſtal to the few. I, therefore, will venture to aſſert, that till women are more rationally educated, the progreſs of human virtue and improvement in knowledge muſt receive continual checks. And if it be granted that woman was not created merely to gratify the appetite of man, nor to be the upper ſervant, who provides his meals and takes care of his linen,

linen, it muſt follow, that the firſt care of thoſe mothers or fathers, who really attend to the education of females, ſhould be, if not to ſtrengthen the body, at leaſt, not to deſtroy the conſtitution by miſtaken notions of beauty and female excellence; nor ſhould girls ever be allowed to imbibe the pernicious notion that a defect can, by any chemical proceſs of reaſoning, become an excellence. In this reſpect, I am happy to find, that the author of one of the moſt inſtructive books, that our country has produced for children, coincides with me in opinion; I ſhall quote his pertinent remarks to give the force of his reſpectable authority to reaſon *.

But

* A reſpectable old man gives the following ſenſible account of the method he purſued when educating his daughter. 'I endeavoured to give both to her mind and body a degree of vigour, which is ſeldom found in the female ſex. 'As ſoon as ſhe was ſufficiently advanced in ſtrength to be 'capable of the lighter labours of huſbandry and gardening, 'I employed her as my conſtant companion. Selene, for 'that was her name, ſoon acquired a dexterity in all theſe 'ruſtic employments, which I conſidered with equal pleaſure and admiration. If women are in general feeble both 'in body and mind, it ariſes leſs from nature than from education. We encourage a vicious indolence and inactivity, 'which we falſely call delicacy; inſtead of hardening their